

Message Text

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70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-11 ERDA-05 CEA-01

CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FPC-01 H-02

INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-04

USIA-06 SAM-01 OES-06 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

FEA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /114 W
----- 004572

R 091525Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KIGALI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4001

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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DEPT ALSO FOR AID - NAIROBI ALSO FOR REDSO/EA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, RW, UG

SUBJECT: RWANDAN POL CRISIS: UGANDA'S AMIN MAKES
DIPLOMATIC AMENDS BUT . . .

REF: KIGALI 245

1. BEGIN SUMMARY - AMIN'S DIPLOMATIC AMENDS DO NOT APPEAR
INCLUDE SUBSTANTIVE CONCESSIONS. HOWEVER, GOR ENCOURAGED
THAT MINIMAL GAS DELIVERIES PLANNED FROM MOMBASA. PENDING
GOR DECISIONS WILL ALSO INDUCE DELIVERIES AND CONTROL
CONSUMPTION. GOR PREPARING REQUESTS FOR DONOR ASSISTANCE IN
EXPANDING STORAGE CAPACITY. END SUMMARY

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2. THE VISIT - AT REPORTED "INVITATION" UGANDA PRES. AMIN,

RWANDAN PRES. HABYARIMANA MADE ONE-DAY OFFICIAL VISIT KAMPALA APRIL 7 SEEKING ADDITIONAL GOU ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING CRITICAL RWANDAN POL SHORTAGES (REFTEL). RADIO RWANDA COVERAGE OF VISIT PLUS PRES. HABYARIMANA'S AIRPORT STATEMENT ON RETURN PLACED VISIT WITHIN CONTEXT CONSULTATIONS WITH OAU PRES. ON GENERAL AFRICAN DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS SOUTHERN AFRICA. AMIN ALSO SOUGHT DEFUSE BILATERAL ASPECT BY STATING UGANDA AND RWANDA BOTH LAND-LOCKED COUNTRIES AND CANNOT INDIVIDUALLY CONTROL THEIR ECONOMIES. HABYARIMANA DELIVERED PAEANS OF PRAISE FOR AMIN'S OAU LEADERSHIP AND UGANDAN-RWANDAN RELATIONS, BUT ONLY SPECIFIC GOU COMMITMENT ANNOUNCED WAS TRANSIT UGANDA WITHOUT CUSTOMS DUTIES OF GAS TANKERS BOUND FOR RWANDA. THIS DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT FROM SITUATION DESCRIBED REFTEL. GOU AGAIN REFUSED AUTHORIZE RESUMPTION GAS PURCHASES KAMPALA DESPITE GOR DEL IMPRESSION THAT UGANDAN GAS STORAGE FULLY "TOPPED OFF." (GOR DEL ALSO GAINED IMPRESSION AMIN'S BICYCLE ANTICS DIRECTED ONLY TO ENCOURAGING AUSTERITY BY UGANDAN POPULATION.)

3. SOME ENCOURAGEMENT - GOR SOURCES, HOWEVER, APPEAR ENCOURAGED THAT SUFFICIENT GAS TRUCKS HAVE BEEN LOCATED MOMBASA TO PROVIDE SOME DELIVERIES BUT PROBABLY NOT AT RATE SUFFICIENT FOR NORMAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITY. GOR MINFIN TOLD AMB AT AIRPORT THAT GOR WOULD SHORTLY ANNOUNCE AN INCREASE IN PUMP PRICE AS RWANDA'S CURRENT PRICE LOWER THAN IN ANY ADJOINING COUNTRY AND "HEAVY" PREMIUMS NOW BEING PAID IN KENYA FOR GAS TANKER CONTRACTS. HIGHER PRICES WILL ALSO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INDUCEMENT FOR SUPPLIERS TO FURNISH RWANDAN MARKET (WHICH THEY CLAIM HAS BEEN UNPROFITABLE). IN ADDITION, MINFIN WILL INTRODUCE FAIRLY STEEP EXCISE TAX OSTENSIBLY TO LIMIT CONSUMPTION.

4. INCREASED STORAGE CAPACITY - MINFIN ALSO STATED HE URGING FONOFF CAMPAIGN FOR DONOR AID TO CONSTRUCT RESERVE STORAGE CAPACITY (CURRENT STORAGE -- LIMITED TO GAS STATIONS -- ESTIMATED AT THREE DAYS). IN RESPONSE DIRECT MINFIN QUERY, US AMB. STATED THERE SHOULD BE NO RPT NO EXPECTATION USG/AID COULD BE ENGAGED IN SUCH A PROJECT. INSTEAD, US AMB. URGED (SECONDED BY UNDP RESREP WHO ALSO PRESENT) THAT GOR FOCUS ON OIL-PRODUCING STATES FOR WHO SUCH A PROJECT SEEMED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MOST APPROPRIATE. (FRG HAS RECENTLY COMPLETED 1.3 MIL. GAL POL STORAGE TANKS WHICH REMAIN EMPTY BECAUSE OF FINANCING PROBLEMS).

5. OUTLOOK - EVEN UNDER BEST CIRCUMSTANCES, RWANDAN ECONOMY (PARTICULARLY COFFEE) AND DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS WILL REMAIN HAMPERED BY GASOLINE AND DIESEL PRODUCT SHORTAGES. FRITTS

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